38. The method of claim 31, wherein a mixture of the motor oil and base compound comprises about 0.5 % to about 5 % by weight of the base compound in volume of solution.

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 3, 2002, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 3, 2002. Claims 4-9 and 11-38 are pending in the application. Pursuant to the Examiner's request, Applicants have enclosed herewith a copy of the PTO form 1449 corresponding to the IDS filed on February 20, 2001. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 4-9 and 11-38 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,238,551, claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,179,999, and claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 6,319,394. Applicants have enclosed herewith a Terminal Disclaimer regarding the patents cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-9 and 11-38 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-29 of U.S. Patent No. 6,007,701. The Examiner states that the Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection over U.S. Patent No. 6,007,701, which was submitted by Applicants on November 30, 2001, was not proper because the attorney is not of record. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants previously filed a Power of Attorney to N. Alexander Nolte on April 9, 2001, making Mr. Nolte a registered attorney of record. Copies of the Power of Attorney and the Terminal Disclaimer submitted by N. Alexander Nolte are enclosed with this response. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Habiby et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,021,333). Pursuant to a telephone interview with the Examiner on October 28, 2002, Applicants submit that the base compound disclosed in *Habiby et al.* is not present during a subsequent extraction step where the organic liquid extractant, which the Examiner equates to Applicants' phase transfer catalyst, is added. *Habiby et al.* discloses a two-part distillation/extraction process. First, *Habiby et al.* discusses Step A, which is the distillation part of the process. (*See*, *Habiby et al.*, at col. 1, lines 58-62.) The next step in the process of *Habiby et al.*, Step B, is the recovery of the distillate during the distillation part of the process. (*See*, *id.*, at col. 2, lines 24-25.) *Habiby et al.* then discloses Step C, which involves the extraction of impurities from the distillate with an organic liquid extractant. (*See*, *id.*, at col. 2, lines 37-39.) Finally, Step D is the part of the extraction process which removes the extractant and impurities from the distillate. (*See*, *id.*, at col. 3, lines 23-24.)

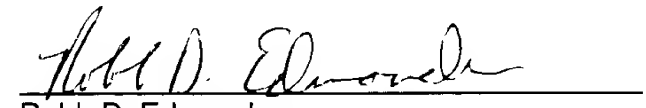
Habiby et al. further discloses adding and removing a diluent as an optional step prior to Step A. (*See*, *id.*, at col. 3, lines 35-39.) *Habiby et al.* further discloses an optional step of heating the used oil with an aqueous solution of a strongly alkaline material (before the optional diluent removal step). (*See*, *id.*, at col. 3, lines 56-59.)

Applicants respectfully submit that the "strongly alkaline material" of the additional preliminary step, which the Examiner equates with the base compound of claim 4 and its dependent claims, is not present during Step C when the organic liquid extractant is added. Therefore, *Habiby et al.* does not teach, show, or suggest a method for purifying motor oil comprising mixing the motor oil with a phase transfer catalyst in the presence of a base compound, as recited in claim 4 and its dependent claims 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 16. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this office action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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